

**Minutes (unofficial)**  
Maryland Council for New Americans  
Citizenship Working Group  
April 7, 2009  
Adventist Hospital  
Gustavo Torres, Chair

**1. Welcome and introductions**

In attendance: Gustavo Torres, Anna Anderson, Lydia Esponosa, Margot Gotzman, Mati Gotzman, Anwar Hasan, Kaori Hirakawa, Angela Lagdameo, Eliza Leighton, Aris Mardirossian, Jessy Mejia, Gail Mogol, Kinya Mururu, Walter Rodriguez, Naima Said, Ruby Stemle, Benoy Thomas, Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt

**2. Minutes were approved.**

**3. Updated Presentation by CASA de Maryland: Report on State Program Models, Barriers to Naturalization Process, New Americans Initiative.**

Anna Anderson presented citizenship program description/history, funding, recommendations and future plans from Massachusetts, Illinois, Washington, and California with more extensive information on funding per state. See full document.

**4. Discussion: Who is the target population?**

The Working Group discussed the target population for the report to the Governor. Though there was interest to have a broader scope of all potentials (Mardirossian), the group decided that the immediate impact would be best to focus on the estimated 110,000 legal permanent residents (Data taken from *New Americans Initiative* report). H1 Visa holders were also discussed as a potential target population (Hasan). Greater public education campaign was mentioned as a need for the report (Hirakawa).

**5. Review of Barriers: Group Breakout**

Five groups were formed so that each group could evaluate one barrier to the naturalization process and provide more extensive recommendations. All feedback is reflected in the updated document: "Barriers to the Naturalization Process."

**6. Next meeting**